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10 War Food Administration
SOYBEANS—HERE IS FOOD

Broadcast by Roy F. Hendrickson, Deputy Administrator, War Food Administration, in the Department of Agriculture portion of National Farm and Home Hour, Thursday, August 19, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

KADDERLY: A few days ago we reported to you on this program that civilians will be able to get a great deal more soya flour and other soybean food products this year than ever before. We told the story very briefly, and I've bided my time, looking for a chance to get Roy Hendrickson to tell you more completely about the coming big supplies of soya products. Mr. Hendrickson is Deputy Administrator of the War Food Administration and Director of Food Distribution. He bears responsibility for helping us keep our diets as healthful as possible during the war. So, he has been anxious to see that we get more soya products. For many of us, soya products are new foods, and I know you'll want to hear what Mr. Hendrickson has to say about them. I'm glad to present...Roy Hendrickson.

HENDRICKSON: Thank you, Wallace. Probably you don't know it, but I was interested in soybeans long before I joined the Department of Agriculture. However, I don't want to take any personal credit for this new interest in soybeans as a human food. The Department of Agriculture has been experimenting with soybeans for 25 years. This work of the Department has been "taking hold" in recent years...taking hold in a big way!

Soybean production has been increased, and it's a good thing it was. Soybean products are becoming an important wartime food...just at the time we were looking around for more food; food that was good for us, and food that would help supplement items which couldn't keep up with the heavy wartime demand.

In 1937 the farmers in this country raised only about 46 million bushels of soybeans. This year the estimated crop is over 200 million bushels. FIVE TIMES AS MANY! And next year we're planning on an even bigger crop.

Will these soybeans be used? Ask the Allocations Committee! The Armed Service those agencies engaged in feeding liberated countries, the Red Cross, Lend-Lease... these groups alone would take just about every pound of soya products we could scrap up...if we'd let them. But the people at home are also represented on the Allocation Committee, so we set aside a certain amount of soya products for them. Last year civilians used about 30 million pounds of soya products; this year they've been allotted over 360 million pounds. That's more than 12 times as much as we got last year...but it still gives us only 27 pounds out of every hundred for domestic use. It DOES mean, however, that we'll be able to get soya products...such as soybean flour, flakes, and grits...at our local stores within a month or two.

So here's a food...Let's USE it! We'll probably not get all the meat we want; we'll probably have to get along with a little less canned foods than we'd like; we may have to cut down more on some other items. But here's a food...and a good one...that'll be 12 times as plentiful as last year!

Now I don't mean that soybeans are the perfect food. I don't mean to imply that they'll please the palate like a good steak, or a couple of lamb chops. But soya products are rich in protein, minerals and vitamins. They're easily adaptable as a supplement for meat, milk and eggs.

Last year most of the soybeans used domestically were bought by food manufacturers. They utilized them in fortifying or extending cereal and meat products. With this year's larger allotment, you'll find more soya products available for direct home use. The Department of Agriculture and the testing kitchens of industrial plants and women's magazines are working on new ways to use soya products. All these efforts are aimed at finding new kitchen recipes which will take full advantage of this important protein food.

And it IS an important protein food, as well as a cheap one. Let's look at how soya protein compares in price with the protein found in meat and milk. Remember, though, we're comparing these foods only on the basis of their protein content; we're not taking into account other food values. Meats average about 15 percent protein. With steak at 30 cents a pound...and that's wishful thinking...a pound of meat protein would cost \$2. Milk is 3½ percent protein, and at 15 cents a quart, milk protein also costs about \$2 a pound. Soya flour contains 50 percent protein, so it would take two pounds of soya flour to make a pound of high-quality protein. Soya flour will average around 15 cents per pound, retail. That makes soya protein cost 30 cents a pound, compared to \$2 a pound when we buy our protein in the form of meat or milk. Any way you look at it, that's a good buy!

We have been aware of the value of soybeans as a human food. We know how important they have been in China and several European countries. But every nation has its food habits, and ever since early days we in America have received our protein from meat, eggs, and milk...all of which come under the heading of animal proteins. Our forefathers shot wild game...deer, buffalo, bear, wild turkeys, and many other meat animals. Then we began to raise cattle, sheep and hogs for domestic consumption. Food habits are slow to change, and as long as we could get plenty of the animal proteins we never thought much of looking around for sources of vegetable protein. The war, with exceptionally heavy demands on our meat supply, has caused us to look around for these supplemental sources of protein. And the lowly soybean is coming into its own.

The other day, a farmer who raises soybeans asked me if I thought they'd continue as an important food after the war. I think they will.

I don't believe farmers have to worry about producing too many soybeans for some time to come. We'll use them more and more in bread, pastries and macaroni products, as cereal fortifiers, as meat extenders, and we'll make more use of soybean oils. Also industry is finding lots of new uses for soybeans, and will develop many others after the war.

In other words, if you put it to a vote, I'd be willing to cast my ballot for soybeans as "the food most likely to succeed!"

KADDERLY: Farm and Home friends, you've heard Roy F. Hendrickson, Deputy Administrator of the War Food Administration and Director of Food Distribution. As he pointed out, more soya products for use in the home will soon be available in retail stores. And they're a good, cheap source of protein food.

